

**SECURE METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING CHARGES
AND ASSURING PRIVACY**

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A system and method for processing usage data within a local data processing
5 system installed on a remote apparatus. The system comprises: a central server for
receiving information from the remote apparatus, and processing the information to
obtain a usage payment; and a local data processing system installed on the remote
apparatus, having: a monitoring system for gathering usage data from the remote
apparatus; a processor for managing the usage data; a communications system for
10 communicating information from the processor to the central server; and a security
system, wherein the security system includes an encryption system for securing
information transmitted to the central server, and for securing information processed by
the central server.